

## Foreword

"Weights and Measures," said John Quincy Adams in 1821, "may be ranked among the necessities of life to every individual of human society." That sentiment, so appropriate to the agrarian past, is even more appropriate to the technology and commerce of today. The order that we enjoy, the confidence we place in weighing and measuring, is in large part due to the measurement standards that have been established. This publication, a reprinting and updating of an earlier publication, provides detailed information on the origin of our standards for mass and length.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E. Ambler." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the main text block.

ERNEST AMBLER  
*Acting Director*